
Children's Oral Health

Definition: Children, ages 1-17, who have not visited a dentist or dental clinic for any reason within the past year.

Prevalence of Children's Oral Health

- South Dakota 19.8%
- There is no nationwide median for children, ages 1-17, who haven't been to the dentist in the past year

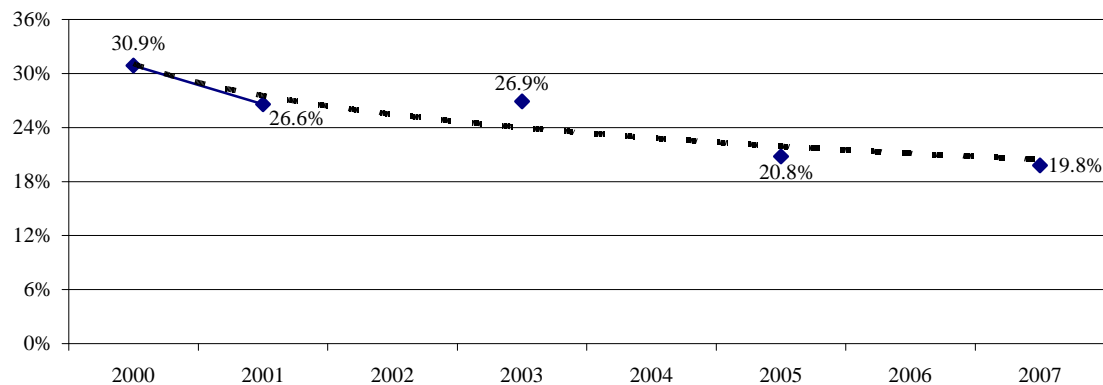
Healthy People 2010 Objective

There was no stated Healthy People 2010 Objective for children, ages 1-17, who haven't been to the dentist in the past year.

Trend Analysis

Overall, the percent of children who have not visited a dentist or dental clinic for any reason within the past year has been decreasing since the question was first asked in 2000.

Figure 40
Children, Ages 1-17, Who Have Not Visited a Dentist or Dental Clinic for Any Reason Within the Past Year, 2000, 2001, 2003, 2005 and 2007



Source: The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, South Dakota Department of Health, 2000, 2001, 2003, 2005 and 2007

Demographics

- Gender** There was no gender difference observed from the available data regarding dental visits in the past year for children.
- Age** The lack of a dental visit in the past year is significantly higher for children in the 1-4 age group than those children five years old or older.
- Race** There are no racial differences observed from the available data regarding dental visits for children.
- Region** There are no regional differences demonstrated by the available data regarding dental visits for children.

**Household
Income**

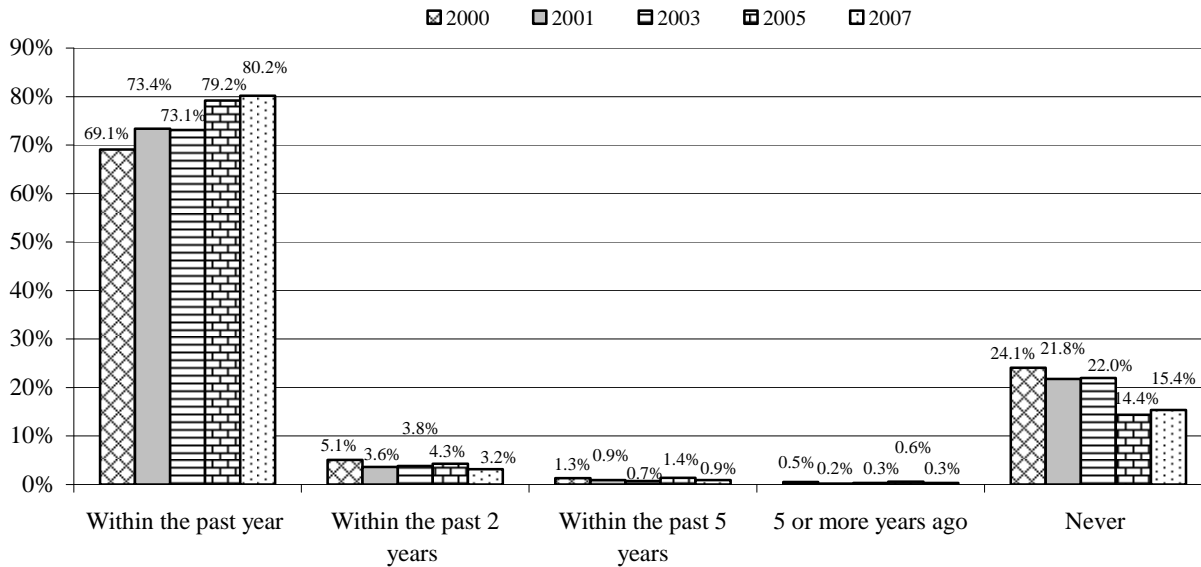
The lack of visiting a dentist in the last year generally decreases as household income increases.

Table 48 Children, Ages 1-17, Who Haven't Been to a Dentist in Past Year, 2007			
Demographics	# Respondents	% No Dentist in Past Year	95% CI
Total	1,533	19.8	(17.5-22.4)
<u>Gender</u>			
Male	782	19.6	(16.6-23.1)
Female	751	20.0	(16.6-24.0)
<u>Age</u>			
1-4	341	62.4	(55.7-68.7)
5-9	420	6.7	(4.5-9.8)
10-14	440	5.7	(3.9-8.4)
15-17	332	8.0	(5.3-11.9)
<u>Race</u>			
White	1,224	19.4	(16.9-22.2)
American Indian	260	22.1	(16.0-29.6)
<u>Region</u>			
Southeast	369	18.7	(14.7-23.5)
Northeast	313	17.4	(13.3-22.5)
Central	250	22.7	(17.4-29.1)
West	326	21.8	(17.0-27.5)
American Indian Counties	275	24.5	(18.7-31.5)
<u>Household Income</u>			
Less than \$20,000	185	30.0	(22.0-39.6)
\$20,000-\$24,999	109	28.1	(18.8-39.8)
\$25,000-\$34,999	173	18.4	(12.6-26.1)
\$35,000-\$49,999	282	23.9	(18.2-30.7)
\$50,000-\$74,999	345	20.2	(15.6-25.9)
\$75,000+	355	13.1	(9.4-17.9)

Source: The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, South Dakota Department of Health, 2007

For all five years displayed in Figure 41, on the next page, the majority of children ages 1 to 17 had visited the dentist or a dental clinic within the past year. In 2007, 80.2 percent had visited the dentist or a dental clinic within the past year compared to 69.1 percent in 2000.

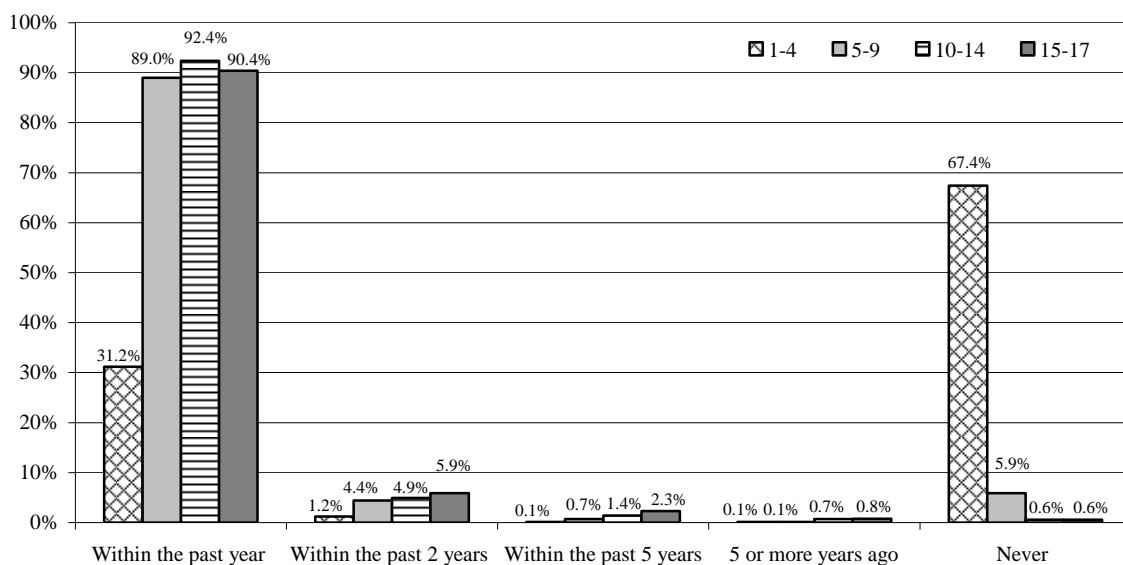
Figure 41
Length of Time Since Child Visited the Dentist or Dental Clinic by Year,
2000, 2001, 2003, 2005 and 2007



Source: The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, South Dakota Department of Health, 2000, 2001, 2003, 2005 and 2007.

Figure 42, below, displays the length of time since child visited the dentist or dental clinic by child's age. When looking at the 1 to 4 year old age group, the majority, 67.4 percent, have never been to the dentist compared to the three other age groups who all had fewer than 10 percent who had never seen a dentist.

Figure 42
Length of Time Since Child Visited the Dentist or Dental Clinic by Child's Age, 2000,
2001, 2003, 2005 and 2007



Source: The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, South Dakota Department of Health, 2000, 2001, 2003, 2005 and 2007

The main reason why children ages 1 to 17 had not visited the dentist within the past year was because they had no reason to go, i.e. no problems, no teeth. In 2007, 63.7 percent stated their children had no reason to go to the dentist within the past year compared to 72.0 percent in 2005. Table 49 below displays this.

Table 49 Main Reason Child Has Not Visited Dentist in the Last Year, 2000, 2001, 2003, 2005 and 2007					
	2007	2005	2003	2001	2000
Number of Respondents	316	384	407	402	471
No reasons to go (no problems, no teeth)	63.7%	72.0%	80.6%	68.5%	72.8%
Cost	8.3%	6.5%	7.4%	2.9%	5.8%
Have not thought of it	4.8%	5.9%	2.4%	7.5%	2.7%
Cannot get to the office/clinic	3.0%	3.7%	1.2%	0.9%	0.1%
Fear, apprehension, nervousness, pain, dislike going	1.1%	2.8%	0.0%	1.6%	2.1%
Do not have/know a dentist	0.8%	2.0%	0.6%	0.8%	0.6%
Other priorities	1.7%	1.5%	1.5%	0.5%	1.5%
Other	16.5%	5.6%	6.2%	17.3%	14.3%

Source: The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, South Dakota Department of Health, 2000, 2001, 2003, 2005 and 2007

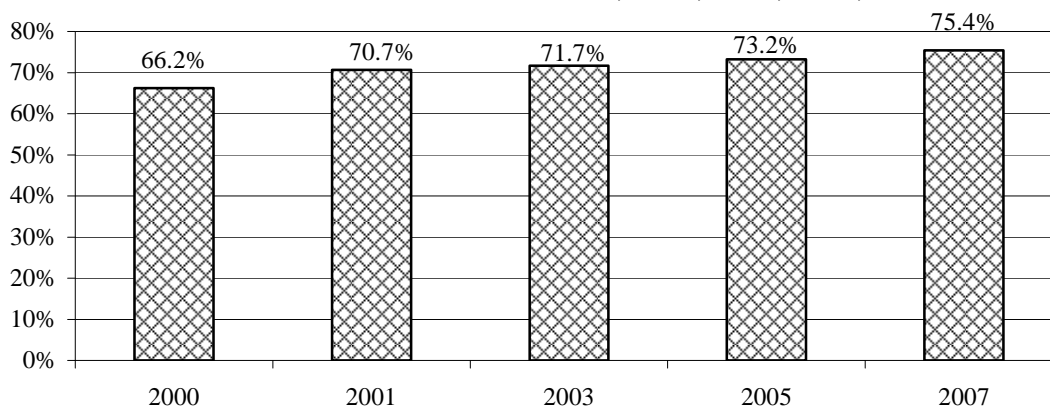
Table 50, below, displays the main reason why child has not visited the dentist in the past year by child's age. When looking at the 1 to 4 year old age group, the majority, 81.9 percent, did not have a reason to go compared to the three other age groups, all with fewer than 50 percent reporting not having a reason to go to the dentist.

Table 50 Main Reason Child Has Not Visited Dentist in the Last Year by Child's Age, 2000, 2001, 2003, 2005 and 2007				
	1-4	5-9	10-14	15-17
No reasons to go (no problems, no teeth)	81.9%	48.6%	39.7%	49.5%
Cost	1.0%	12.8%	25.8%	23.0%
Have not thought of it	3.1%	13.1%	5.9%	4.1%
Cannot get to the office/clinic	0.1%	3.6%	8.2%	5.0%
Fear, apprehension, nervousness, pain, dislike going	0.1%	4.6%	3.7%	7.3%
Do not have/know a dentist	0.7%	1.5%	1.0%	1.9%
Other priorities	0.4%	5.4%	4.2%	1.3%
Other	12.8%	10.4%	11.4%	8.0%

Source: The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, South Dakota Department of Health, 2000, 2001, 2003, 2005 and 2007

Figure 43, on the next page, displays the majority of respondents who stated that they do have some kind of insurance that pays for some or all of their child's routine dental care. In 2007, 75.4 percent stated they did have some kind of insurance coverage that pays for some or all of their child's routine dental care compared to 66.2 percent in 2000.

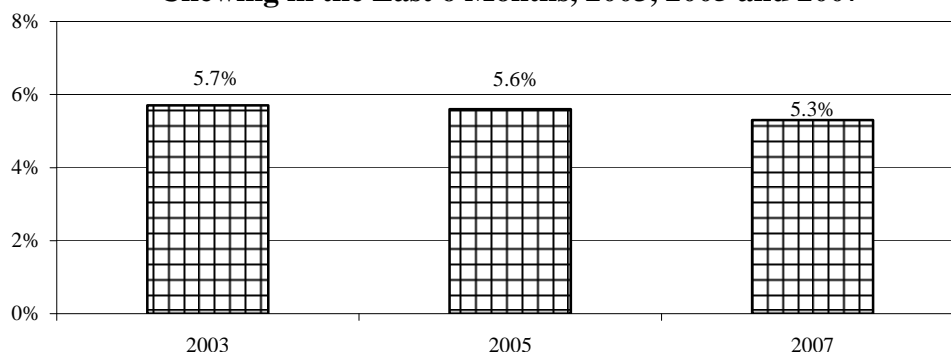
Figure 43
Respondents Who Have Any Kind of Insurance Coverage That Pays for Some or All of This Child's Routine Dental Care, 2000, 2001, 2003, 2005 and 2007



Source: The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, South Dakota Department of Health, 2000, 2001, 2003, 2005 and 2007

Figure 44, below, displays the percent of children who had a toothache more than once when biting or chewing in the last six months. Overall, the percent of children who had a toothache decreased from 5.6 percent in 2005 to 5.3 percent in 2007.

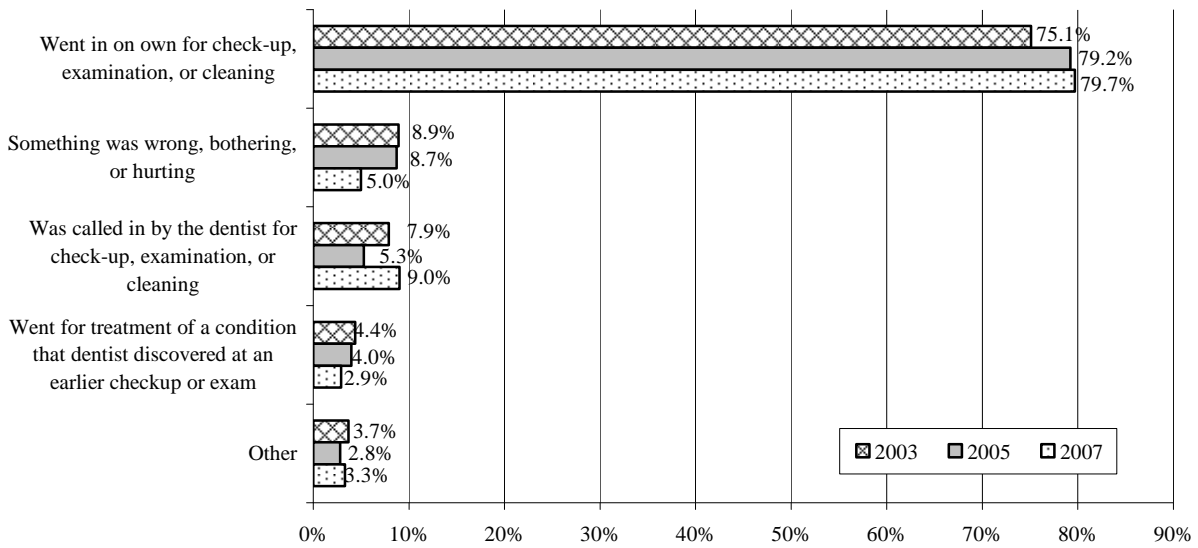
Figure 44
Children Who Had Toothache More Than Once, When Biting or Chewing in the Last 6 Months, 2003, 2005 and 2007



Source: The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, South Dakota Department of Health, 2003, 2005 and 2007

The main reason why respondents' children last visited a dentist in the three years the question was asked was because they went in on their own for check-up, examination, or cleaning. In 2007, 79.7 percent of respondents' children went in for this reason as illustrated in Figure 45 on the next page.

Figure 45
Respondents' Main Reason That Child Last Visited a Dentist, 2003, 2005 and 2007



Source: The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, South Dakota Department of Health, 2003, 2005 and 2007